... Annual Report ...

OF

HOLY INNOCENTS CHURCH,

Tacony, Philadelphia.

For the Year Ending June 1st, 1903.

Rev. ROBERT A. EDWARDS, D. D., Minister.

Vestry and Committees.

At a meeting of the congregation of the Church of Holy Innocents, held on Easter Monday evening, April 13th, 1903, the following were elected Vestrymen to serve during the ensuing year to wit:

John H. Currier
Edwin Derbyshire
William W. Hall
John B. Moffitt
Matthew Odgers
David B. Umstead, M. D.
Edward H. Curtis
Lewis R. Dick
Elmer E. Keiser, M. D.
Frank Overn
William Shegog
Caspar M. Titus.

And at a subsequent meeting of the Vestry for organization, the following Officers and Committees were duly elected or chosen:

ELMER E. KEISER, M. D., Rector's Warden.
JOHN H. CURRIER, Accounting Warden.
LEWIS R DICK, Secretary.

Finance Committee—Messrs. DICK, MOFFITT and OVERN.

Sunday-School Committee—Messrs CURRIER, HALL and CURTIS.

Music Committee—Messrs. KEISER, SHEGOG and DERBYSHIRE.

Visiting Committee—Messrs. TITUS, UMSTEAD and ODGERS.

Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention:
Messrs. DICK, CURRIER and CURTIS.

Sexton—Mr. THOMAS KEALEY.

The Choir.

Organist—Miss Mary Wagner
Choir Master—Mr. Bernard Smith

MEMBERS:

Mrs. Burkholder
Miss Laura Hawthorne
Miss Emma Hawthorne
Miss Vida Umstead
Miss Amelia Carnall
Miss Blanche Gunn
Miss Carrie Keighley
Mr. Shapcott
Mrs. Shapcott
Miss Mary Gish
Miss Alice Newton
Miss Bertha Smith
Miss Daisy Cotter
Miss Anna Hall
Mr. Bernard Smith
Mr. W. Eastwood

Mr. Alexander Shaerer.

Sunday School Officers and Teachers.

J. H. CURRIER, Superintendent.

Choir Leader—Miss Mary Wagner. Organist—Miss Amelia Carnall.
Assistant Organist—Miss Vida Umstead. Cornetist—Mr. Wm. Twelves.
Rec. Secretary—Miss Esther Hawthorne. Roll Book Sec.—Miss Mary Gish
Librarian—Wm. Twelves. Ass't Librarian—Alexander Shaerer.
Monitor—Dennis Maloney. Treasurer—Herbert U. Porter.

TEACHERS:

Miss Jeannette Moffitt	Miss Maude White
Miss Anna Hall	Miss Laura Hawthorne
Miss Katharine Smith	Miss Vida Umstead
Miss Blanche Gunn	Miss Esther Hawthorne
Miss Carrie Keighley	Miss Mary Currier
Mrs. W. J. Gunn	Mrs. Wm. W. Hall
Mrs. E. J. Derbyshire	Mrs. Leonard Shallcross
Mr. Thomas Kealey	Mr. Herbert U. Porter

Mr. J. H. Currier.

INFANT SCHOOL:

Mrs. Frank Overn Miss Emma Hawthorne
Miss S. Evyline Knight.

Sunday School Guild.

Treasurer—Horace Eastwood.
Meetings: First Friday of each month, except during warm weather.

ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES.

Trinity Sunday, June 3rd, was marked as the 2nd Anniversary of Dr. Edwards' work in this parish.

The chancel was neatly dressed, and there was a large attendance of communicants at the morning service.

In the afternoon, at the Sunday-School, the event was observed by special services. An interesting Address was delivered by Mr. B. Johnson, a former Bible Class teacher and Superintendent under Dr. Edwards. He presented the thought of Christ as the Ideal of a "Great Leader" and "True Friend," and urged all to loyalty to Him as the inspiration of all true work.

At night a large congregation filled the Church; an address was delivered by Mr. W. S. Harvey, a former vestryman of Dr. Edwards' church. He rejoiced, with Tacony, in the work carried on successfully by Dr. Edwards here, as in other places. He specially emphasized the healthy sign of the parish, in reaching out to Missions and other philanthropic work. He urged, that there should be a greater interest even—manifested in the future, by every member, in a direct work to win souls for Christ, and to gather them into His Church.

Our own townsman, Mr. John B. Moffitt, then read a well written Address, in which he spoke as follows:

Mr. John B. Moffitt's Address.

Anniversary seasons are milestones on the road we travel in life's journey, where we can pause for a moment to rest from the cares and duties and trials of life, and looking backward over the course we have journeyed, learn from the experience of the past wisdom for the future.

So on this day, which marks the completion of the second year of the pastorate of Dr. Edwards, it is well that we, his parishioners, should take a brief retrospective view of what has been accomplished during the time that he has labored amongst us.

A little over two years ago a plain statement was sent to the Bishop of the Diocese as to the condition of this parish, which was then on the very verge of dissolution. Subsequently, a Committee of the Vestry had a conference with him, and he was told of our needs and difficulties. The Bishop seemed to grasp the situation fully, and went into detail as to our wants and prospects.

Of course, being a Mission Church, we were under his direct supervision, and had no part or lot in the selection of a minister. It had grown to be almost a custom to give these small missions in charge of young men fresh from the seminary, full of enthusiasm, perhaps, but lacking in experience.

But as the careful general would not select a raw recruit for a difficult and dangerous enterprise, but would rather detail a tried and valiant soldier whose courage had been fully tested, and in whom he had the utmost confidence, so our good Bishop, after carefully looking over the field, determined that he would send to us a man of learning and eloquence, of tact and ripe experience, who from the first could grasp the needs of the situation, and direct his labors accordingly.

The wisdom of this selection has been fully demonstrated by the results.

From a congregation indifferent and full of dissension, we have become a harmonious band of workers; the membership has been largely increased, grievances have been healed and differences adjusted, while all look up to their minister as their guide and their friend.

He has not said to one "go thou, and do this," and to the other, "go thou and do that," while he stood idly by looking on; but his invitation has ever been "Come, and let us labor together," he being foremost in every good work. The result is that the church is in a better financial condition than ever before in its history. The introduction of the system of renting pews has given us a fixed income, while the plate collections have increased rather than diminished; so that outside of our mortgage debt, we are able to meet our current expenses promptly and make larger contributions to missions than ever before.

But do not let us sit down calmly and fold our hands imagining that all has been accomplished that is possible.

With the year just opening we should so increase our labors and add to our income, that we need no longer ask for the aid of the Convocation in the payment of the salary of our minister; so that we can cease to be a mission, and make our minister the Rector of the Parish in name and title, as he has been in fact.

To you Reverend Sir, I feel that I speak not only for the Vestry, but for this whole congregation, when I say that you have fully won and fully merited our respect, our esteem, and our love; coming among us a stranger, you have found a warm place in our hearts; you have been with us in our times of mourning and in the seasons of rejoicing. In times of sickness and death you have spoken words of comfort and consolation, and administered the last sad rites over those who have passed away; you have joined in holy wedlock those of our young people who have started out to travel life's road together, and have taken the little ones in your arms and consecrated them in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism—in all these things drawing very close to us.

Your labors have not been confined to our own little circle, but you have made the wants of the parish known to those in authority, and have secured by your own unaided efforts the means of enriching this church with beautiful windows of stained glass, and a fine pipe organ; also of enlarging and refitting the upper story, making it suitable for Sunday School purposes.

We appreciate all this that you have done for us, and our earnest prayer is that God's richest blessings may be showered upon you; that you may be spared many years to be our guide and faithful friend, and that your labors may be so blessed that this congregation may increase and multiply, and this church enlarge her borders and continue in after years as a living monument to the faithful work you have accomplished in Tacony.

The Reports of the various departments of Parish work were read.

Finance.

The Accounting Warden, Mr. Currier, presented an abstract of receipts and comparisons with other years. He said it had been the most successful year in the history of the parish. One great drawback to pecuniary advance, is the debt of $7000, contracted in the erection of our new edifice. It is earnestly hoped that the attention of the diocese may be drawn to this matter, and that some generous hearts outside may be led to come to our relief.

	1901	1902	1903
Offertory and Communion	$131 06	$ 376 41	$ 642 65
Subscriptions, Envelopes and Pew Rents	512 10	717 20	1004 80
Societies, Sunday-school and other sources	981 38	1055 91	1723 05
Total	$1624 54	$2149 52	$3370 50
PER CENT. INCREASE.			
Offertory and Communion		180%	380%
Subscriptions, Envelopes and Pew Rents		40%	90%

The Sunday School

Is in a flourishing condition. There has been a marked increase in attendance and interest in the Primary Department.

The greatest need of the School, is for Men teachers, especially in Bible Classes. There are now upwards of 200 members and teachers in the Sunday-School.

The Ladies' Auxiliary

Was organized in July, 1898. Its object is, to raise money towards paying interest on the Church debt. The dues, the first month of its existence, were $5.85. Now the monthly dues bring in about $200 a year, a most creditable showing, as the contributions are in small sums. The present membership is about 130, of whom 14 were recently added. No agency in the Parish has done more earnest work for the church than this. During the Spring and Summer, two delightful Entertainments were given in its interest, both taking the form of a Musicale. One was held at the residence of Mrs. Watson, which netted $25.00; the other in the Parish House, under the auspices of Miss Disston, which yielded $30.50. The present officers are: Mrs. Leonard Shalcross, President; Mrs. Weeks, Treasurer; Mrs. Hall, Secretary.

Young People's Association.

The Young People's Association was organized about a year ago, for the purpose, principally, of promoting social interests among the young people of the church, and incidentally, to assist the church financially. Our membership numbers about forty. Under our auspices have been given three Entertainments, highly successful, socially as well as financially. The first was called "A Case of Suspension." The second entitled "A Family Affair," was given by some of the young men of Eastburn Academy, who, through the efforts of Mr. Robt. L. Edwards, kindly volunteered their services, and for which the Association was very grateful.

Our last Entertainment entitled, "Just for Fun," was recently given, and great credit is due to those of our members who devoted their time and energy in its preparation. Our receipts from this Entertainment were $55, which are for the Carpet Fund. The Association extends a most hearty welcome to all young folks interested in our church to join the Association; and this includes any one with a good young heart, no matter what their age.

HERBERT U. PORTER, President.
Miss VIDA UMSTEAD, Secretary.
Mrs. S. HALL, Treasurer.

The Children's Guild

Has been in existence for 15 years. It is composed, mainly, of our Sunday-School children, and their friends. In its earlier days, the children met at each other's homes. Now they meet during the Winter, once a month, in the Parish House, and have entertainment of their own. The little folk greatly enjoy these gatherings. Their free will offerings are given towards helping to pay the church's coal bills. The receipts are about $25.00 a year. The "Head" of the Guild is our faithful Superintendent, and Mr. Horace Eastwood, is Treasurer.

Young Women's Pleasant Hour.

It was felt something should be done for the young women of our town, socially—who are engaged in work during the day, and so the above named Society was formed. It began in January, with 30 members, and had 80 names on its roll before closing in May. The meetings began with a short religious service, and

then games, conversation or sewing followed. Dr. Edwards gave a Stereopticon Entertainment once a month. They held a successful Apron and Cake sale after Easter, and from this and their weekly dues, $45.00 were received for the new carpet fund. President, Mrs. Astbury; Managers: Mrs. Derbyshire, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Shallcross; Organist, Miss Esther Hawthorne.

Young People's Devotional Meeting.

This was a religious service, held for and by our young folks, on Sunday nights, from Advent to Easter, before the evening service. It is earnestly hoped that the coming Winter may see a deeper interest in this matter, on the part of all our young people, and the congregation as well. It might be well to have a Chapter of the St. Andrews Brotherhood organized, or a Society of Christian Endeavor.

Pastoral Aid Society.

The parish was divided into four districts, and ladies appointed for each, who have carefully looked after all cases of want or sickness therein. This should become an increasingly useful agency for good in our industrial community.

BRIEF NOTES.

No review of the year's work would be complete without some notice of the Vestrymen's Supper, held in the Fall. This was the most unique entertainment ever given in the Parish. The Vestrymen not only prepared, but cooked and served the Supper, every vestryman doing his full share to win the encomiums, which were heartily given, by the lady guests, particularly. $125 were netted, which went towards paying for the new pews, that it was found necessary to place in the annex last Summer.

The ladies of the parish were stimulated by this effort of the Vestrymen to do something on their own account. So they held a Bazaar before Christmas, at which they cleared $400. Of this sum, $200 were given to the reduction of our debt, and $200 for current expenses. This was a very gratifying result, as the "Sale" was held when we had the worst weather of the whole wet and stormy Winter.

Through the friendly offices of both of our Bishops, we have been promised $3000, with which we hope to begin in July, to enlarge and improve our present edifice. Defects in the construction will be remedied, and the building converted into one of the most capacious and attractive of church buildings in the diocese. Beautiful stained glass windows will be introduced, and a handsome pipe organ erected. The improvements will be made without interfering with the carrying on of the regular services.

The ladies have on hand about $175, with which they propose to provide a new carpet for the main audience room, which will hereafter be used exclusively as the "Church."

May these improvements awaken a spirit of grateful earnestness on the part of our people, and may God's spirit baptize us all with deeper consecration to all good works.

One of the new windows to be erected, will be to the Memory of the Rev. Dr. Millett, the founder of the parish; the other in Memory of Rev. Mr. White, who was rector for 11 years. This latter will be paid for by the offerings of our Sunday-School and Young People.

Our choir received the hearty thanks of the Vestry for their faithful services in a very wet winter, and especially for their rendering of the Easter music. We trust there may be a full and well-trained choir to greet our new organ.

We learn that the proceeds of the late Strawberry Festival are about $75. This is for the new church carpet.

We append copy of the Report of the Parish, made to the Bishop, for the Convention year ending May 1, 1903.

Baptisms, adults 1, infants 11, total 12; confirmed, 19; communicants added by transfer, 3; removed by transfer 2; present number 106; marriages 6; burials 4; public services, on Sundays 106, on other days 28, total 134; Sunday-Schools and Bible Classes, officers and teachers 22, scholars 181, total membership 203.

EXPENDITURES.—Parochial: Current expenses $2074.70; improvements $404.79; support of Sunday-Schools $39.95; for the Poor $31.95; total Parochial $2551.39

Diocesan: Episcopal and Convention Fund $30 16; Missions, Diocesan $30.00; City $9.03; Deaf $7.14; Episcopal Hospital $120.80; Christmas Fund $7.52; Bishop's Charity Fund $20.00; total Diocesan $224 65

Extra Diocesan: Missions, Foreign $42.17, Domestic $56.47, Jews $5 88
Total Extra Diocesan $104.52
Total for all objects $2880.56

RECEIPTS —Pew Rents $917.94; Offerings for all Parish Purposes and offerings for purposes outside the Parish $667.46; donations $320 44; other sources $1057.43; Sunday-School $62.05; Woman's Auxiliary $191.36; other societies $43.15; total $3259 83

Financial Condition.—Estimated aggregate value of property of the Parish, real and personal $18,000; encumbrances on buildings and lands $7200; fund for Debt Reduction $200.